

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17, 19-24, and 26-44, pending at the time of the Final Office Action issuance, are currently rejected. Claims 1, 13, 17, 29, 33, and 43 have been amended, claims 2, 5, 8-14, 16, 18, 21, 24-30, 32, 36, and 39-44 have been cancelled. Claims 45-47, which were introduced in the August 25, 2004 Amendment, have been not entered. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 15, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 31, 33-35, and 37-38 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the claim amendments and following remarks.

I. Telephone Interview

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's time and courtesy in conducting the September 21, 2004 telephone interview with Applicant. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant agreed that all claims presented in the August 25, 2004 "Amendment After Final" (not entered) were in proper form with the exception of claims 45-47. The Examiner requested that Applicant provide information demonstrating that salts could be formed from the groups identified in the independent claims.

II. Amendments to Specification

Applicant has amended Paragraph 8 of the specification to clarify that the carboxy acid group is not sulfonic. This is clearly supported as the formula $[(CH_2)_n-COO^-]$ does not include sulfur. This disclosure is further supported at Paragraph 20 which states "A preferred sulfonated or sulfated organic acid type organic surfactant has the general formula $Y SO_x^-$ where preferably $x = 3$ or $x = 4$ and Y is preferably selected from an alkyl group, an aryl group, and alkylaryl group, and an carboxy acid group $[(CH_2)_n-COO^-]$..." Accordingly, the present amendment is fully supported by the specification, and no new matter is being added by way of the amendment.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17, 19-24, and 26-44 are rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite because the claim term "and a salt of any of the foregoing" in independent claims 1, 17, and 33 is said to be confusing because it is alleged that only the carboxylic acid group would be able to form a salt. Applicant respectfully disagrees, as will now be discussed.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 17, and 33 to remove the recitation of "and a salt of any of the foregoing." Claims 1, 17, and 33 have further been amended to recite, *inter alia*, the surfactant having the general formula $Y SO_x^-$ or salts thereof. "X" is 3

or 4, and “Y” is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, and aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group.

Applicant asserts that it is widely accepted in the art that any of the above-identified groups can form salts with sulfonates (x=3) and sulfates (x=4). In support of this assertion, Applicant submits herewith 1) pages 1055 and 1060 from Hawley’s Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Twelfth Edition, and 2) relevant pages from U.S. Patents 6,586,385; 6,716,804; 5,912,208; and 4,595,526. Each of these references have been cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed under separate cover. Each of these references identify known salts from the claimed groups as follows:

	Sulfonates (Y SO ₃)	Sulfates (Y SO ₄)
Alkyl	Sodium Alkyl Sulfonate (U.S. Pat. No. 6,586,385, Col. 11, Table under Example 4)	Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (Hawley, Page 1060)
Aryl	Sodium Benzene Sulfonate (U.S. Pat. No. 6,716,804, Col. 3, lines 11-12)	Sodium Aryl Sulfate (U.S. Pat. No. 5,912,208, Col. 8, line 19)
Alkylaryl	Sodium Dodecylbenzenesulfonate, (Hawley, Page 1055)	Sodium Dodecyl Benzene Sulfate (U.S. Pat. No. 4,595,526, Col. 1, line 55, fn. 12)

Clearly, it is widely accepted that alkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl groups form salts with both sulfonates and sulfates. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the claims as amended are proper, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

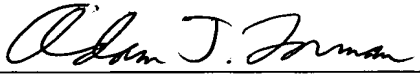
Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1, 3-8, 10-17, 19-24, and 26-44 contain allowable subject matter with respect to the prior art, and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112. Of those claims, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 31, 33-35, 37, and 38 remain pending and overcome all 112 rejections.

V. Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that all rejections and objections cited by the Examiner have been overcome, and that the present amendment has removed all issues identified in the Office Action without raising any new issues. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw the fee of \$430 for a Two month extension of time, along with any additional fees deemed necessary for this or any other communication, from Deposit Account No. 17-0055. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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